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U.S. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
**WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK
FOR
IDAHO**

PREDICTED PRECIPITATION
CUMULATIVE RECORDS



U. S. DEPARTMENT of AGRICULTURE ★ SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

Collaborating with

IDAHO STATE DEPARTMENT OF WATER ADMINISTRATION

Data included in this report were obtained by the agencies named above in cooperation
with Federal, State and private organizations listed inside the back cover of this report.

AS OF
JAN. 1, 1974

TO RECIPIENTS OF WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK REPORTS:

Most of the usable water in western states originates as mountain snowfall. This snowfall accumulates during the winter and spring, several months before the snow melts and appears as streamflow. Since the runoff from precipitation as snow is delayed, estimates of snowmelt runoff can be made well in advance of its occurrence. Streamflow forecasts published in this report are based principally on measurement of the water equivalent of the mountain snowpack.

Forecasts become more accurate as more of the data affecting runoff are measured. All forecasts assume that climatic factors during the remainder of the snow accumulation and melt season will interact with a resultant average effect on runoff. Early season forecasts are therefore subject to a greater change than those made on later dates.

The snow course measurement is obtained by sampling snow depth and water equivalent at surveyed and marked locations in mountain areas. A total of about ten samples are taken at each location. The average of these are reported as snow depth and water equivalent. These measurements are repeated in the same location near the same dates each year.

Snow surveys are made monthly or semi-monthly from January 1 through June 1 in most states. There are about 1900 snow courses in Western United States and in the Columbia Basin in British Columbia. Networks of automatic snow water equivalent and related data sensing devices, along with radio telemetry are expanding and will provide a continuous record of snow water and other parameters at key locations.

Detailed data on snow course and soil moisture measurements are presented in state and local reports. Other data on reservoir storage, summaries of precipitation, current streamflow, and soil moisture conditions at valley elevations are also included. The report for Western United States presents a broad picture of water supply outlook conditions, including selected streamflow forecasts, summary of snow accumulation to date, and storage in larger reservoirs.

Snow survey and soil moisture data for the period of record are published by the Soil Conservation Service by states about every five years. Data for the current year is summarized in a West-wide basic data summary and published about October 1 of each year.

Cover Photo: *Snow Surveyors near Ship Creek,
Alaska snow course.*

SC PHOTO A-272-11

PUBLISHED BY SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

The Soil Conservation Service publishes reports following the principal snow survey dates from January 1 through June 1 in cooperation with state water administrators, agricultural experiment stations and others. Copies of the reports for Western United States and all state reports may be obtained from Soil Conservation Service, Western Regional Technical Service Center, Room 209, 511 N. W. Broadway, Portland, Oregon 97209.

Copies of state and local reports may also be obtained from state offices of the Soil Conservation Service in the following states:

STATE	ADDRESS
Alaska	204 E. 5th. Ave., Room 217, Anchorage, Alaska 99501
Arizona	6029 Federal Building, Phoenix, Arizona 85025
Colorado (N. Mex.)	P. O. Box 17107, Denver, Colorado 80217
Idaho	Room 345, 304 N. 8th. St., Boise, Idaho 83702
Montana	P. O. Box 98, Bozeman, Montana 59715
Nevada	P. O. Box 4850, Reno Nevada 89505
Oregon	1218 S. W. Washington St., Portland, Oregon 97205
Utah	4012 Federal Bldg., 125 South State St., Salt Lake City, Utah 84138
Washington	360 U.S. Court House, Spokane, Washington 99201
Wyoming	P. O. Box 2440, Casper, Wyoming 82601

PUBLISHED BY OTHER AGENCIES

Water Supply Outlook reports prepared by other agencies include a report for California by the Water Supply Forecast and Snow Surveys Unit, California Department of Water Resources, P. O. Box 388, Sacramento, California 95802 --- and for British Columbia by the Department of Lands, Forests and Water Resources, Water Resources Service, Parliament Building, Victoria, British Columbia



WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK FOR IDAHO

and
FEDERAL - STATE - PRIVATE COOPERATIVE SNOW SURVEYS

Issued by

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WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK for IDAHO



GENERAL SUMMARY FOR JANUARY 1, 1974

The winter season of 1973-74 got off to a good start in October with very heavy precipitation and snowfall accumulation continuing through December. As of January 1, 1974 the snowpack was above normal on all watersheds in Idaho, ranging from 116% of average on the Camas-Beaver Creek drainages to a high of 220 percent of normal on the Weiser River watershed.

Due to heavy rain during October and November, soil moisture is good to excellent throughout the state.

Reservoir storage, though below average in general, picked up from the heavy rain following the end of the irrigation season, and appears satisfactory at this time.

Based on January 1 conditions, the outlook for water supply in 1974 is considered good to excellent throughout Idaho.

COMPARISON of SNOW COVER

RIVER BASIN WATERSHED	NO. OF COURSES AVERAGED	THIS YEARS SNOW WATER EXPRESSED AS PERCENT OF :	
		LAST YEAR	1958-72 AVERAGE
<u>UPPER COLUMBIA RIVER BASIN</u>			
Pend Oreille River	28	148	128
Clark Fork River	23	151	127
Flathead River	5	140	134
Priest River	4	250	161
Spokane River	1-3	224	116
<u>LOWER SNAKE RIVER BASIN</u>			
Clearwater River	4-15	181	133
Salmon River	10	197	169
<u>MIDDLE SNAKE RIVER BASIN - Northside</u>			
Big Lost River	1	155	164
Little Wood River	2-3	189	114
Big Wood River	5	220	153
Boise River	6	134	170
Payette River	9	207	173
Weiser River	1	220	220
<u>MIDDLE SNAKE RIVER BASIN - Southside</u>			
Raft River	1	198	210
Salmon Falls Creek	7	98	132
Bruneau River	3	99	124
Owyhee River - Idaho	3	209	194
<u>UPPER SNAKE RIVER BASIN</u>			
Camas-Beaver Creeks	2	163	116
Henry's Fork River	4-7	160	133
Teton River	2-4	137	129
<u>GREAT BASIN</u>			
Montpelier Creek	4	107	120

RESERVOIR STORAGE (1,000 Ac. Ft.)

RESERVOIR	USABLE CAPACITY	MEASURED (First of Month)		
		THIS YEAR	LAST YEAR	1958-72 AVERAGE
<u>UPPER COLUMBIA BASIN</u>				
<u>Clark Fork - Pend Oreille</u>				
Hungry Horse	3428.0	2604.0	2641.0	2766.0
Flathead	1791.0	1386.0	1399.0	1423.0
Pend Oreille	1155.1	326.5	322.9	431.2
Noxon	334.6	295.4	323.4	325.5
<u>Spokane</u>				
Coeur d'Alene	225.1	182.0	148.4	138.2
<u>SNAKE BASIN</u>				
<u>Snake</u>				
Jackson Lake	847.0	633.5	615.8	531.5
Palisades	1200.0	936.5	987.4	751.3
American Falls	1700.0	825.9	1085.4	448.4
Island Park	127.0	90.4	83.0	82.0
Grassy Lake	15.2	10.3	10.1	9.6
Brownlee	980.2	941.3	784.3	792.7*
<u>Goose-Trapper Creeks</u>				
Oakley	74.4	39.5	41.6	12.6
<u>Salmon Falls Creek</u>				
Salmon Falls	182.6	71.7	92.9	25.5
<u>Big Lost</u>				
Mackay	44.2	20.0	30.9	27.7
<u>Big Wood</u>				
Magic	191.5	45.9	109.0	88.5
<u>Little Wood</u>				
Little Wood	30.0	11.2	14.6	11.6
<u>Fish Creek</u>				
Carey Valley	14.4	3.7	1.9	--
<u>Boise</u>				
Anderson Ranch	423.2	236.4	320.9	278.0
Arrowrock	286.6	176.2	272.8	204.9
Lucky Peak	278.2	46.0	38.0	60.3
Lake Lowell (Deer Flat)	169.0	105.9	114.4	106.3
<u>Owyhee</u>				
Owyhee	715.0	434.6	510.8	406.8
<u>Payette</u>				
Cascade	653.2	342.6	375.8	354.0
Deadwood	161.9	21.5	84.5	68.0
<u>Weiser</u>				
Mann Creek	11.1	6.5	3.3	--
<u>GREAT BASIN</u>				
<u>Bear</u>				
Bear Lake	1421.0	1109.1	1135.6	944.4

*Period of Record.

SNOW

DRAINAGE BASIN and/or SNOW COURSE		THIS YEAR			PAST RECORD	
		Date of Survey	Snow Depth (Inches)	Water Content (Inches)	Water Content (inches)	Last Year
NAME	Elevation					

UPPER COLUMBIA RIVER BASINPEND OREILLE - PRIEST RIVER

Benton Meadow	2344	1/2	15	3.0	T	3.5
Benton Spring	4900	12/31	46	14.3	5.8	8.4
Schweitzer Bowl	4500	12/28	84	24.8	9.7	14.3*
Schweitzer Ridge	6100	12/28	107	34.8	15.3	21.6*

SPOKANE RIVER

Above Burke	4100	12/28	48	9.8	5.1	--
Lookout	5250	12/28	79	18.1	10.5	15.6
Sherwin	3200	12/31	39	10.0	1.3	--
Sherwin (SP)	3200	12/31	--	9.3	1.0	--

CLEARWATER RIVER

Buck Meadows	5600	1/4	61	20.6	12.0	--	
Cayuse Airstrip	3700	1/2	36	8.5	0.8	5.7*	
Coolwater Mountain (SP)	6200	1/2	--	15.7	8.6	--	
Cottonwood Butte	5140	1/3	31	7.6	3.0	--	
Crater Meadows	6100	1/2	78	22.9	16.3	--	
Crooked Fork	3600	12/28	42	8.2	2.5	--	
Fish Lake Airstrip	5000	1/2	79	20.7	13.6	17.6*	
Hemlock Butte	5500	1/2	100	29.7	19.3	--	
Hemlock Butte (SP)	5500	1/2	--	26.8	18.3	--	
#Hoodoo Basin	Mont.	6000	1/3	95	30.0	18.1	20.8
#Hoodoo Creek	Mont.	5900	1/3	87	24.9	17.1	18.9
Lolo Pass		5250	12/27	62	15.2	10.6	--
Lower Snowhaven		5250	12/28	43	10.8	4.0	--
Pierce Ranger Station		3170	1/5	30	8.0	2.0	4.5
Powell Ranger Station		3410	12/28	36	7.0	2.0	--
Savage Pass		6160	1/2	52	13.0	9.0	--
Savage Pass (New)		6160	1/2	55	13.2	9.5	--
Shanghai Summit		4600	1/2	61	17.2	7.1	--
Upper Snowhaven		5600	12/28	39	11.2	4.6	--

SALMON RIVER

Big Creek Summit	6600	12/27	81	22.9	12.6	13.8*
#Boulder Creek	5500	12/27	80	21.6	9.8	9.8*
Brundage Mountain	7560	12/28	106	36.8	14.5	18.3*
#Deadwood Summit	7000	1/2	113	35.2	19.5	22.0*
#Galena Summit	8795	12/26	56	16.4	7.5	10.4
#Gibbons Pass	Mont.	7100	12/26	47	11.5	8.3
Mill Creek Summit	8870	1/2	52	16.0	7.3	10.6*

SNOW

DRAINAGE BASIN and/or SNOW COURSE		THIS YEAR			PAST RECORD	
		Date of Survey	Snow Depth (Inches)	Water Content (Inches)	Water Content (inches)	Last Year
NAME	Elevation					Average b
Moose Creek	6200	12/28	46	9.7	7.2	5.6*
Morgan Creek	7580	1/2	35	8.3	4.8	5.9*
#Rock Flat Summit	5200	12/28	51	12.5	5.2	6.8
#Secesh Summit	6600	12/26	90	27.3	14.0	--
#Squaw Meadow	5800	1/4	84	28.7	14.3	--
Twin Peaks (A)	10300	1/2	57	17.6	--	--
<u>Lemhi River</u>						
Above Gilmore (A)	8200	1/2	27	5.3	2.7	--
Aspen-Hall Pass (A)	8110	1/2	29	5.9	4.1	--
Copes Camp	7500	1/2	22	4.5	3.0	--
Hall Creek	7560	1/2	18	3.4	2.5	--
Meadow Lake (A)	9100	1/2	51	13.5	6.1	--
Schwartz Lake (A)	8500	1/2	34	9.0	3.8	--
<u>SOIL MOISTURE</u>						
STATION		PROFILE (inches)		SOIL MOISTURE (inches)		
NAME	ELEVATION	DEPTH	CAPACITY	DATE	THIS YEAR	LAST YEAR
<u>SPOKANE RIVER</u>						
Fourth of July Summit	3100	48	11.6	10/1	3.2*	9.2
Lookout	5250	48	11.0	12/28	8.6	5.2
<u>SALEMON RIVER</u>						
Mill Creek Summit	8870	48	9.4	1/2	4.6	3.3
<u>Lemhi River</u>						
Above Gilmore	8200	60	5.4	10/31	3.5*	3.4
Meadow Lake	9100	48	4.4	10/31	2.6*	2.1
<u>*Fall Measurement</u>						

(b) 1958-72, 15 year period. #Not located directly on this drainage. *Estimated 1958-72, 15 year Average. (A) Aerial observation Water content estimated. (SP) Pressure Pillow snow-water equivalent.
(R) Radioactive Gage snow-water equivalent.

SNOW

DRAINAGE BASIN and/or SNOW COURSE		THIS YEAR			PAST RECORD	
		Date of Survey	Snow Depth (Inches)	Water Content (Inches)	Water Content (inches)	Last Year
NAME	Elevation					

MIDDLE SNAKE RIVER BASIN - NORTHSIDEBIG LOST RIVER

White Knob	7700	12/28	26	5.9	3.8	3.6
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LITTLE WOOD RIVER

Garfield Rgr. Sta.	6554	12/27	25	5.2	2.6	4.4*
Muldoon	6300	12/27	17	3.5	2.2	3.2*
Swede Peak	7650	12/27	41	10.8	5.5	--

BIG WOOD RIVER

Galena	7300	12/26	49	13.6	5.8	8.0
Galena Summit	8795	12/26	56	16.4	7.5	10.4
Graham Ranch	6200	12/26	32	7.4	3.8	5.6
Mount Baldy	9000	12/29	49	13.0	6.0	8.8
Soldier Rgr. Sta.	6100	12/28	38	7.8	3.4	5.2*

BOISE RIVER

Atlanta Summit	7500	1/2	85	24.9	11.7	15.3*
Bad Bear	5500	12/27	35	7.8	4.0	6.5*
#Bogus Basin	6120	1/3	58	18.8	7.5	9.3
Bogus Basin Road	5360	1/7	31	7.6	--	2.4*
Moores Creek Summit	6100	12/27	76	20.2	12.3	12.7
#Soldier Rgr. Sta.	6100	12/28	38	7.8	3.4	5.2*
Trinity Mountain	7780	1/2	100	32.9	15.3	17.2*

PAYETTE RIVER

#Big Creek Summit	6600	12/27	81	22.9	12.6	13.8*
Bogus Basin	6120	1/3	58	18.8	7.5	9.3
#Brundage Mountain	7560	12/28	106	36.8	14.5	18.3*
Cozy Cove	5900	12/31	45	10.8	6.6	6.9
Crawford Rgr. Sta.	4800	12/27	19	4.6	2.4	3.1*
Deadwood Airstrip	5440	12/30	43	10.6	4.3	6.6
Deadwood Dam	5290	12/31	44	10.6	6.1	7.3
Deadwood Summit	7000	1/2	113	35.2	19.5	22.0*
Lake Fork	6000	1/3	43	11.8	5.8	--
Rock Flat Summit	5200	12/28	51	12.5	5.2	6.8
Secesh Summit	6600	12/26	90	27.3	14.0	--
Squaw Meadow	5800	1/4	84	28.7	14.3	--

WEISER RIVER

Boulder Creek	5500	12/27	80	21.6	9.8	9.8*
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SNOW

DRAINAGE BASIN and/or SNOW COURSE		THIS YEAR			PAST RECORD	
		Date of Survey	Snow Depth (Inches)	Water Content (Inches)	Last Year	Average ^b
NAME	Elevation					

MIDDLE SNAKE RIVER BASIN - SOUTHSIDERAFT RIVER

Howell Canyon	8000	1/2	68	20.8	10.5	9.9
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SALMON FALLS CREEK

#Bear Creek (A)	Nev.	7800	12/31	36	9.2	9.8	7.6*
Cedar Creek (A)		7000	12/31	28	6.7	5.9	3.8*
Deadline		6900	12/28	48	11.5	12.6	8.7
Goat Creek	Nev.	8800	12/27	33	8.3	10.1	7.5*
#Hummingbird Spgs.(A)	Nev.	8945	12/31	40	10.8	10.1	8.7*
Magic Mountain		6700	12/28	43	10.9	9.9	6.9
#Pole Creek R. S.	Nev.	8330	12/27	36	9.7	10.2	7.7
Red Point (A)	Nev.	7940	12/31	6	1.6	--	--
Wilson Creek (A)		7500	12/31	24	6.5	7.6	--

BRUNEAU RIVER

Bear Creek (A)	Nev.	7800	12/31	36	9.2	9.8	7.6*
Hummingbird Springs(A)	Nev.	8945	12/31	40	10.8	10.1	8.7*
Pole Creek R. S.	Nev.	8330	12/27	36	9.7	10.2	7.7
#Seventy-six Creek(A)	Nev.	7100	12/31	30	8.1	6.2	--

OWYHEE RIVER

Antelope Ridge		5900	12/26	18	3.7	--	--
#Bear Creek (A)	Nev.	7800	12/31	36	9.2	9.8	7.6*
Mud Flat		5500	12/26	18	3.4	--	--
#Seventy-six Cr. (A)	Nev.	7100	12/31	30	8.1	6.2	--
Silver City		6400	1/4	42	12.7	3.4	5.6*
South Mountain		6340	1/3	37	11.2	2.6	3.9*

SOIL MOISTURE

STATION		PROFILE (Inches)		SOIL MOISTURE (Inches)			
		DEPTH	CAPACITY	DATE	THIS YEAR	LAST YEAR	2 YEARS AGO
<u>RAFT RIVER</u>							
Conner Pass	5700	36	9.8	10/12	8.4*	8.8	6.4
Howell Canyon	8000	48	11.5	1/2	8.3	8.0*	6.7
Sheep Hollow	6200	36	7.5	10/15	4.8*	2.5*	2.5*
<u>GOOSE CREEK</u>							
Badger Gulch	6660	36	7.0	10/17	5.5*	5.8	5.9
<u>SALMON FALLS CREEK</u>							
Deadline	6900	36	7.4	12/28	6.7	--	5.9
Patrick Ranch	5720	36	7.7	12/27	4.4	--	5.9
Pole Creek R. S.	8330	36	9.7	12/27	8.1	--	8.2
<u>OWYHEE RIVER</u>							
Mud Flat	5500	48	12.8	12/26	11.2	9.9*	--

SNOW

DRAINAGE BASIN and/or SNOW COURSE		THIS YEAR			PAST RECORD	
		Date of Survey	Snow Depth (Inches)	Water Content (Inches)	Last Year	Average ^b
NAME	Elevation					

UPPER SNAKE RIVER BASINCAMAS-BEAVER CREEKS

Camp Creek	6800	12/28	33	4.6	3.1	4.3
Kilgore	6200	1/2	25	5.5	3.1	4.4*

HENRYS FORK RIVER

Big Springs	6500	12/28	51	10.6	7.6	7.8
Grassy Lake Wyo.	7230	12/29	73	18.8	14.5	14.1
Island Park	6315	12/28	43	8.8	5.2	6.1
Sawtelle Mountain	8715	12/28	77	23.4	12.1	--
Targhee Pass	7000	12/28	33	6.3	4.3	--
Valley View	6500	12/28	34	7.4	4.1	6.3
White Elephant	7700	12/28	57	16.1	9.2	--

TETON RIVER

Darby Canyon	Wyo.	8250	1/2	48	13.1	8.3	--
Freds Mountain	Wyo.	8000	1/2	56	14.0	10.3	--
Garns Mountain		8300	1/2	66	20.5	--	--
Indian Meadows	Wyo.	8200	1/2	72	19.5	--	--
Jackpine Creek	Wyo.	7500	1/2	46	12.0	--	--
McRenold Reservoir		6800	1/2	42	10.2	--	--
Miles Creek	Wyo.	7500	1/2	34	7.5	--	--
Pine Creek Pass		6750	12/28	43	9.0	7.6	6.6*
State Line		6400	12/28	34	6.7	5.0	5.6

WILLOW CREEK

Aspen Grove		6600	1/2	31	7.0	--	--
Birch Creek		6800	1/2	25	5.8	--	--
Bone		6200	12/27	17	3.3	3.3	2.6*
Ozone		5800	12/27	8	2.0	0.7	0.9*
Sheep Mountain		6510	12/27	25	5.8	--	--
Tex Creek		6550	1/2	25	4.8	--	--

SAND CREEK

Henry Creek		5650	12/29	14	2.6	2.1	2.1*
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BLACKFOOT RIVER

Slug Creek Divide		7225	1/2	32	7.4	7.1	--
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(b) 1958-72, 15 year period. #Not located directly on this drainage. *Estimated 1958-72, 15 year Average. (A) Aerial observation Water content estimated. (SP) Pressure Pillow snow-water equivalent. (R) Radioactive Gage snow-water equivalent.

SOIL MOISTURE

SNOW

DRAINAGE BASIN and/or SNOW COURSE		THIS YEAR			PAST RECORD	
		Date of Survey	Snow Depth (Inches)	Water Content (Inches)	Water Content (inches)	Last Year
NAME	Elevation					

GREAT BASIN**BEAR RIVER**

Emigrant Summit	7350	1/3	54	14.4	9.8	9.6*
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Montpelier Creek

Giveout	6840	1/2	30	6.2	5.4	4.6*
Little Beaver	6970	1/2	34	7.0	6.8	5.4*
Montpelier Creek	6570	1/2	23	4.2	2.8	3.5*
Whiskey Flat	6985	1/2	18	3.6	4.4	3.7*

SOIL MOISTURE

STATION		PROFILE (Inches)		SOIL MOISTURE (Inches)			
		DEPTH	CAPACITY	DATE	THIS YEAR	LAST YEAR	2 YEARS AGO
NAME	ELEVATION						
<u>BEAR RIVER</u>							
Emigrant Summit	7350	36	8.2	1/3	6.3	5.4	6.3
Montpelier Creek							
Giveout Pass	7025	36	9.4	1/2	7.5	4.0	--
Jenson Ranch	6580	48	18.7	1/2	11.2	8.2	6.6

(b) 1958-72, 15 year period. #Not located directly on this drainage. *Estimated 1958-72, 15 year Average. (A) Aerial observation Water content estimated. (SP) Pressure Pillow snow-water equivalent. (R) Radioactive Gage snow-water equivalent.

Agencies and Organizations Cooperating in Idaho Snow Surveys

GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

Canada:

Department of Lands, Forests, and
Water Resources, British Columbia
Department of Resources and Development,
Water Resources Division

States:

Idaho State Department of Water Administration
State of Idaho Department of Fish and Game
University of Idaho
Idaho State University
Montana Agricultural Experiment Station
Montana State Water Conservation Board
Nevada Cooperative Snow Surveys
Oregon Agricultural Experiment Station
Oregon Cooperative Snow Surveys
Oregon State Engineer and Corps of
State Watermasters
Utah Cooperative Snow Surveys
Wyoming Cooperative Snow Surveys

Federal:

U. S. Army Engineers
U. S. Department of Agriculture
Forest Service
Agriculture Research Service
U. S. Department of Commerce
NOAA, National Weather Service
U. S. Department of the Interior
Bonneville Power Administration
Bureau of Reclamation
Fish and Wildlife Service
Water Resources Division, Geological Survey
Indian Service
National Park Service
Bureau of Land Management

PUBLIC UTILITIES

The Montana Power Company
Washington Water Power Company
Idaho Power Company
Utah Power and Light Company

ORGANIZED PUBLIC AGENCIES

Big Lost River Irrigation District
Boise Project Board of Control
Little Wood River Irrigation District
Jordan Valley Irrigation District
Salmon Falls Creek Irrigation Company
Twin Falls Soil Conservation District
Twin Lakes Irrigation Company
Big Wood Irrigation Company
Owyhee Project - North & South Board of Control

PRIVATE CORPORATIONS

Amalgamated Sugar Company

*Other organizations and individuals furnish valuable information for
snow survey reports. Their cooperation is gratefully acknowledged.*



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